

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 EB-08 AGRE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00  
/078 W

-----161340Z 110491 /47

P R 161225Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3049  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY KIGALI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3569

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CG, ECON, PGOV, PDEV  
SUBJ: BISENGIMANA UNDER HOUSE ARREST

REF: KINSHASA 1885 (NOTAL)

1. AS WE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, RUMORS ATTRIBUTED BISENGIMANA'S REMOVAL, AT LEAST IN PART, TO SEVERAL FINANCIAL SCANDALS. THIS NOW APPEARS TO BE CONFIRMED.
2. SHORTLY AFTER BISENGIMANA'S RETURN FROM PARIS, WHERE HE REPORT-EDLY WAS INVOLVED IN THE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND MOROCCANS FOR THE TRNASPORTATION OF MOROCCAN TROOPS TO ZAIRE, HE WAS PICKED UP BY THE PARQUET AND INTERROGATED FOR A NUMBER OF HOURS. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED BUT PLACED UNDER STRICT HOUSE ARREST WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO REPORT DAILY TO THE PARQUET.
3. ALLEGEDLY BISENGIMANA WAS ACCUSED OF BEING INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL COFFEE EXPORTS AND WITH FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES AT SOZACOM, THE  
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STATE OWNED MINERAL MARKETING COMPANY. TWO ENGLISH AND PORTUGUESE RESIDENTS OF KINSHASA WERE ARRESTED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND QUESTIONED CONCERNING ILLEGAL COFFEE EXPORTS. WE ALSO UNDER-  
STAND THAT THE CND ATTEMPTED TO ESTABLISH A CONNECTION BETWEEN THEIR ACTIVITIES AND BISENGIMANA. FUNDS FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES WERE PROVIDED BY BANGULI, BISENGIMANA'S STAFF AIDE.  
REPORTEDLY THE PORTUGUESE WAS OFFERED HIS LIBERTY IF HE WOULD

IMPLICATE BISENGIMANA. WE HAVE NO PROOF THAT HE COLLABORATED BUT IT IS PERHAPS MORE THAN COINCIDENCE THAT THE PORTUGUESE WAS RELEASED SHORTLY AFTER BISENGIMANA WAS ARRESTED.

4. ALLEGATIONS REGARDING BISENGIMANA AND SOZACOM CONCERN ILLEGAL PURCHASE FOR PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OF LUXURY APARTMENTS AND VILLAS ABROAD AS WELL AS ACCUSATIONS THAT BISENGIMANA DIRECTED SOZACOM TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL PAYMENTS TO HIS PROTEGES IN THE FORM OF CONSULTANT FEES.

5. WE HAVE HEARD FROM AN EXCELLENT SOURCE THAT, IRONICALLY, BISENGIMANA APPEALED TO HIS FORMER ARCH RIVAL CENTRAL BANK GOV SAMBWA FOR HELP. REPORTEDLY, SAMBWA PROMISED TO HELP BUT HE ADDED LATER TO OUR SOURCE THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT IDEA IF BISENGIMANA WERE PERMANENTLY RETIRED TO PRIVATE LIFE.

COMMENT: AS IS ALWAYS THE CASE IN ZAIRE, WE SUSPECT THAT THE REASONS FOR ANY MAJOR EVENT ARE MORE COMPLEX THAN THEY MIGHT SEEM. BISENGIMANA WAS NEVER POPULAR, REGARDED AS A FOREIGNER BECAUSE OF HIS RWANDAN BACKGROUND, AND MADE MANY POWERFUL ENEMIES. UNDOUBTEDLY THERE IS MORE TO HIS REMOVAL AND ARREST THAN MERELY FINANCIAL SCANDAL, HARDLY THE TYPE OF THING TO DISTURB THE ZAIRIAN ELITE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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